



# Hosta Happenings

November 2010

Vol. 14, Iss 9

## **M.V.H.S. MEETING**

**SUNDAY, November 14, 2010**

**2:00 PM**

**RIVERDALE FIRE STATION**

**(across from ALCOA)**

**Speaker:**

**BEV RINGS**

**“HERITAGE PLANTS”**

Bev will walk on plants not just what grandma grew, but what Thomas Jefferson and others grew. She comes from Burnside, IL which is about 75 miles this side of Hannibal, MO.

## Meeting Minutes

MVHS – October 10, 2010

Gary Whittenbaugh from Oelwein gave a very interesting talk about conifers prior to the business meeting.

Secretary's Report: The meeting minutes are published in our newsletter.

Financial Report: Dean Piatt gave a short report on funds on the two CDs and balance in checking account. He also said the trip to Trudy Temple's home in Chicago was well received and suggested we consider a bus trip to her farm in 2011.

Old Business: A memorial was discussed again for Vander Veer. It had been tabled in March. The membership was interested in donating a tree (possible conifer). Carolyn Hamilton will contact Susan Anderson at Vander Veer and will report back to the membership at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

New Business: Discussion was held on creating a guideline on what expense should be included when we have outside speakers. This will be further discussed at the November meeting or possibly at a board meeting and then presented to the membership.

Elections of new officers will be at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The following individuals are slated for election: President: Carolyn Hamilton; Vice President: Dean Piatt; Treasurer: Jim Cato; Secretary: Mary Johannsen.

Please continue turning in pictures for the scrapbook to **Donna Piatt**. Also, please consider working on one of our committees next year. Volunteers are what makes the MVHS strong. Shirley thanked everyone who volunteered in the support of the MVHS for the 2010 season.

Mary Johannsen  
Secretary Pro-Tem

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2011-12

The election of officers for the years 2011-2012 will be held at the November 14th meeting. The following slate has been presented:

President: Carolyn Hamilton

Vice President: Ron Simmering

Recording Secretary: Mary Johannsen

Treasurer: Jim Cato

Nominations will be taken from the floor. Please attend to vote!

### The 2010 Benedict Garden Performance Medal Winner

from Mid-South Hosta Society Newsletter

The 2010 Benedict Medal was awarded to H. 'Sagae' (K. Watanabe/AHS) at the AHS Convention in Bloomington, MN. The winner was chosen from the 2009 Award of Merit winners by Garden Performance Judges across the country. This plant represents the best-of-the-best, the ultimate hosta. It is a hosta that performs well in gardens in all regions.

The Benedict Medal is the highest Garden Performance Award offered by the AHS. The award is named in honor of Dr. Herb Benedict, a pioneer in hosta hybridizing. It is selected from previous Award of Merit winners. Each cultivar awarded an Award of Merit becomes eligible to receive the Benedict Medal.

If you love hostas and would like to become a Garden Performance Judge, an application can be found at:

[www.americanhosotasociety.org](http://www.americanhosotasociety.org).

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**CHAPTER DUES FOR 2011 ARE NOW DUE!  
DUES ARE STILL ONLY \$7 A YEAR! SUCH  
A BARGIN!!! YOU CAN PAY THEM AT THE  
NOVEMBER 14th MEETING OR MAIL A  
CHECK TO DEAN PIATT, 2910  
TELEGRAPH RD., DAVENPORT, IOWA  
52804.**



**M.V.H.S.  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2010  
SOCIAL HOUR - 6:00 PM  
DINNER - 7:00 PM**

**\$20.00 per person**

**THUNDER BAY GRILL  
6511 N. BRADY ST.  
DAVENPORT, IOWA**

**BUFFET MENU:**  
Sliced Roast Beef au Jus  
Peppercorn Pork Loin  
Tilapia with Dill Sauce  
Roasted Red Potatoes  
Vegetable Medley  
Buttered Corn  
Tossed Salad  
Fruit Salad  
Cup Cakes

**Reservations Deadline: Monday, November 29, 2010  
Contact: Sally Freeman, 355-8534**

## BALANCE THE SCALES

by Mary Chastain, Lakeside Acres  
Taken from the Newsletter of Hostas of Kentuckiana

*This article has appeared in several other local hosta society newsletters where the editors thought their readers would find it informative at this time of year.*

Fall clean up time is around the corner. Lately, I have read articles dealing with how we should leave our hosta gardens for the winter. As in life there is no perfect way that can meet the needs of all. Some articles have been emphatic in the fact that leaving leaves on the garden is the thing to do. I agree with the idea that leaves offer protection for the plants during the winter months and that they also provide nutrients for the soil. They help keep the ground cool in the spring so that hostas are not as likely to emerge too early. This is good and I concur with those things. Other articles have dismissed this fact saying that it is better to remove all of the weeds and old foliage from the garden in the fall. At this time I wish to say, leaves may hold excessive moisture as well as fungi, both of which can be harmful to your hostas. The leaf cover provides space for a well-run hatchery for the proliferation of slugs. Leaving old plant foliage contributes to the spread of fungi and disease that may be present.

My proclamation is that what works for one is not necessarily for the good of all. If you live in a vole infested area letting the leaves remain on the garden will just about guarantee your loss of hostas over the winter. Voles prefer to move and work in a protected environment. They believe that this wonderful blanket of leaves was created just for them. Under this cover they build a network of freeways which takes them from the banquet table of your hostas to the playground where they invite their family, friends and neighbors to come enjoy the buffet. They laughingly announce that there is plenty for all.

Cleaning the garden of weeds, old foliage and leaves in the fall reduces the chance of spreading disease. It also lowers the risk of vole destruction. It eliminates many of the hiding places for voles and slugs. A clean surface allows for the early treatment for slugs and provides easier access for fertilizer. Keeping the slug population low during fall and winter eases your battle for control during the growing season. Removing diseased materials lowers your risk of incurring trouble next year. For example, consider the possibility of leaving plants and mulch contaminated with the fungus that causes southern blight. How much more likely you are to be plagued with it the following season.

Once the garden is clean and ready for winter, a thin layer of clean new pine needles can be spread to offer some winter protection and diminish the washing of your soil. A thin cover of pine needles allows air to circulate over the ground. Though they offer some shade protection for your plants they are open enough to discourage the construction of vole freeways.

Now that we have weighed the pros and cons you must balance the scales to meet the situation in your garden. Will the value of leaves in your garden outweigh the disadvantages that they may offer?

## **AHS' 2009 POPULARITY POLL**

If you are a member of the American Hosta Society, you probably saw the 2009 Popularity Poll results in the last issue of the Hosta Journal. For those of you who are not members, the top 10 of both polls follows. How many do you have in your garden?

### Regular

1. H. 'Sagae'
2. H. 'June'
3. H. 'Liberty'
4. H. 'Sum and Substance'
5. H. 'Blue Angel'
6. H. 'Paradigm'
7. H. 'Regal Splendor'
8. H. 'Krossa Regal'
9. H. 'Paul's Glory'
10. H. 'Guacamole'

### (Very) Small Hostas

1. H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'
2. H. 'Pandora's Box'
3. H. 'Baby Bunting'
4. H. 'Cameo'
5. H. 'Cracker Crumbs'
6. H. 'Tiny Tears'
7. H. 'Cat and Mouse'
8. H. 'Lemon Lime'
9. H. 'Pixie Vamp'
10. H. 'Country Mouse'

Voting for 2010 popularity poll will continue until the end of the year. If you are a member of AHS you can vote on line: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/AHSMembers/PopularityPollVoting.asp>. If you are a member but don't have internet connection, you may vote by mail; see page 78 of the latest Hosta Journal for details.

## **25 HOSTAS OF MERIT BY KIM LARSEN**

Kim Larsen of St. Paul, MN, recently spoke at a meeting of the Mid-South Hosta Society and described her choices of hostas of merit. Kim always wins blue ribbons with her hosta leaves at the National and Midwest Regional conventions and her list follows and includes several varieties that are not usually included in lists of this type:

### **Mini Hostas**

Green - H. 'Bedspread'  
Blue - H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'  
Yellow - H. 'Curly Fries'  
Variegated - H. 'Pandora's Box'  
Species - H. gracillima

### **Small Hostas**

Green - H. 'Kryptonite'  
Blue - H. 'Powderpuff'  
Yellow - H. 'Fire Island'  
Variegated - H. 'Hawkeye Gold'  
Species - H. kikutti

### **Medium Hostas**

Green - H. 'Party Favor'  
Blue - H. 'Silver Bay'  
Yellow - H. 'Northwest Textures'  
Variegated - H. 'Mr. Watson'  
Species - H. ventricosa 'Aureomaculata'

### **Large Hostas**

Green - H. 'Old Faithful'  
Blue - H. 'Clarence'  
Yellow - H. 'Stardust'  
Variegated - 'White Angel' streaked  
Species - ventricosa 'Aureomaculata'

### **Giant Hostas**

Green - H. 'Mikado'  
Blue - H. 'Steve Moldovan'  
Yellow - H. 'Sum and Substance'  
Variegated - H. 'Victory'  
Species - sieboldiana 'Mira'

**Mandarin Orange Cake** from Donna Piatt - This was served at Oct. meeting and was really good!!!!

- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 2 eggs
- 2 - 11 oz. cans mandarin oranges (drained but save juice)
- 1 tsp vanilla

Mix all ingredients together. Bake in greased angel food cake pan at 350 for 40-50 min.  
Don't remove from pan.

Glaze ingredients:

- 6 Tbsp mandarin orange juice
- 1-1/2 Tbsp powdered milk
- 6 Tbsp butter
- 1-1/2 cups brown sugar

Combine and bring to a boil and boil for 3 min. Poke holes in cake and pour glaze over the top of the cake while still in the pan. Let it soak in and cool. Remove cake from angel food pan and cut into slices and add whipped cream when served.

**AHS DUES:** The American Hosta Society offers participation in all national activities, including a convention, 3 issues of "The Hosta Journal", and a directory. They also have a web page - [www.hosta.org](http://www.hosta.org). Dues are \$30/yr, \$57/2 yrs and \$600 life for an individual. Family memberships are also available at \$34/yr and \$62/2 yrs. Make your check to AHS and send to the Membership Secretary, Sandie Markland, 8702 Pinnacle Rock Ct., Lorton, VA 22079.

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**Midwest Regional Hosta Society Dues** are \$10/yr. Send your check to: Barbara Schroeder, 1819 Coventry Dr., Champaign, IL 61822-5239.

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**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HOSTA SOCIETY DUES** are \$7/YR. Please make your check payable to MVHS and send to Dean Piatt, Treasurer, 2910 Telegraph Rd., Davenport, IA 52804. We offer 8 newsletters a year, reduced prices on hosta offerings, garden walks, first opportunity to buy plants at our annual hosta and plant sale and many other good opportunities.

Mississippi Valley Hosta Society  
909 Mississippi Blvd.  
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

**WHAT'S HAPPENING:**

- Nov 14** - MVHS meeting, Riverdale Fire Station, 2 PM
- Dec 3** - Annual Christmas Party
- Jan 22** - Winter Scientific, Lisle, IL
- Mar 11-12** - Hosta College, Piqua, OH

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Visit our MVHS Web Site: **[mvhosta.org](http://mvhosta.org)**  
Other hosta and garden web sites:  
American Hosta Society - <http://www.hosta.org>  
Midwest Hosta Society - <http://www.midwesthostasociety.org>  
Hosta Library - <http://www.hostalibrary.org>  
Hosta Forum - questions/answers - <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/hosta>  
Mini Hosta Forum - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/minihosta>

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**LET US KNOW!!! IF YOU HAVE MOVED or HAS YOUR EMAIL CHANGED?**  
**Send your corrected info to DEAN PIATT, 2910 TELEGRAPH RD., DAVENPORT, IA 52804.** His email is: [dpiatt@mvhosta.org](mailto:dpiatt@mvhosta.org)